Freight train service between India and Bangladesh

280. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to start freight train service between India and Bangladesh soon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the service would reach up to the North-East, say upto Tripura;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) There are already four Railway links operational between India and Bangladesh as under:—

(i) Gede (India) Darsana (Bangladesh) Broad Gauge

(ii) Singhabad (India) - Rohanpur (Bangladesh) - Broad Gauge.

(iii) Radhikapur (India) - Birol (Bangladesh) - Meter Gauge.

(iv) Mahisasan (India) - Shahbazpur (Bangladesh) - Meter Gauge.

A fifth Railway link namely Petrapole (India) - Benapole (Bangladesh) - Broad Gauge, is likely to opened.

(c) No.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Setting up of Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation

281. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have recently set up the Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation;

(b) whether the Corporation has commenced functioning; if so, where it has been located; and

(c) what are the details and the objectives of the Corporation?